wherein n is an integer from 4 to 13 and R is H or CO_2R' wherein R' is C_{8-22} saturated, unsaturated or hydroxylated alkyl and wherein at least one group R is not hydrogen;

c) 5 to 50% of one or more compounds selected from polyglycerol esters of fatty acids and/or unsaturated fatty acids of formula (2)

Sub B' cont

$$CH_2OR\text{-}CHOR\text{-}CH_2O\text{-}(CH_2CHOR\text{-}CH_2O)_NCH_2\text{-}CHOR\text{-}CH_2OR \quad (2)$$

wherein n is an integer from 0 –10 and R = H or CO_2R'' wherein R" is C_{8-22} saturated, unsaturated or hydroxylated alkyl, and wherein at least one group R is not hydrogen;

d) 5 to 50% of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of triglyceride macrogol glycerol esters, partial glycerides of fatty acids and magrogol esters of fatty acids in which the average quantity of reacted ethylene oxide in the synthesis of these substances ranges between 50 to 150 mols and concurrently the ratio between components b) and d) is from 0.1:1 to 10:1;

A1

wherein the above percentages are selected to total 100%;

and wherein upon dilution with water 1:1 by volume the viscosity of the formulation increases by at least 5 times in comparison to the undiluted composition.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of a:c is in the range 0.001 : 1 to 10 : 1.

A2

30. (Amended) A formulation as claimed in claim 2, wherein said formulation further comprises excipients to modify the physical, chemical, microbial stability, organoleptic or physical processing properties of the formulation.

A3

REMARKS

In a Restriction Requirement dated June 28, 2001, the Office has required restriction of the present application into the following groups:

I. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 28; drawn to a method of increasing viscosity;

II. Claims 2, 25, 27, 29, and 31; drawn to a composition that does not require the presence of alcohols;